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### Serial Story No. 25

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## The Marathon Mystery

A Story of Manhattan

By BURTON E. STEVENSON

Author of "The Holiday Case"

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Half blinded for an instant, we stood staring at each other, at the door.

"For God's sake!" gasped Simmonds, mopping the sweat from his face.

"What is it?"

"It's a snake," said Godfrey tersely.

"The deadliest in the world. If you don't believe me look yonder!" And he pointed to the huddled mass on the floor.

I did not look; I was afraid to; I had already seen too much. I was grateful when Godfrey jerked down a curtain and threw it over the body. Then he gave Simmonds the lantern and closed the door, which we had left open when we entered.

"Now," he continued sharply, "there's no use in giving way to our nerves. We're in no danger, but that snake is hid around here somewhere and the first thing for us to do is to find it. Where there two snakes, Lester?"

"No," I answered, as articulately as I could, "I think not. I never saw but one."

"I thought you said Cecily took that one with her."

"So she did—wait; I didn't see it. She had a cover over the cage."

Godfrey's face paled suddenly.

"Good God!" he murmured.

A giddiness seized me. I clutched at a chair for support.

It had been no accident. She had left Fe-Fe behind to avenge her—and what a vengeance! She had not laughed and forgotten!

Then in a flash I understood that last strange scene—the change in Cecily as she stood watching us from the deck of the reeling boat, the pressing against the rail, the frantic effort to shoot a message to Tremaine. She had relented, she did not wish to kill him, she loved him yet! But of that warning he had caught only a single word.

"The bed!" I cried. "The bed!"

"Right!" agreed Godfrey incisively, and walked to the bedroom door. In an instant the inner room was ablaze with light. He armed himself with one of Tremaine's canes, and together we approached the bed.

"Ready, now," he said, and with a sudden movement stripped back the covers. But there was nothing under them.

"The pillow, perhaps," he said, and turned it over.

There was a quick movement, a soft hissing, a vicious head raised itself, two eyes of orange fire glared at us.

I heard the swish of Godfrey's cane, and the head fell. Fe-Fe would work no more evil.

And then as I looked more closely at the coils I perceived something else there—something bright, iridescent, glowing.

Godfrey lifted the mangled body with the end of his cane and threw it into the middle of the bed. Then he bent over and picked up the necklace.

"It was sure we should find it here," he said. "But look at it. Isn't it beautiful?"

It was more than that—it was superb; not dead white now, but warm, full of life. Was it the salt bath, or was it that the cloud had been removed forever from its owner's life? As

something unearthly in its beauty. It seemed to be rejoicing.

"The snake bit him probably," added Godfrey thoughtfully, "as he thrust the necklace under the pillow. It was a fitting punishment."

"It was greater than he deserved," I protested hoarsely. "He was not the man to meet a death like that."

"A man! He was a vampire!" said Godfrey sternly. "He lived on the lives of others. Don't let your sentimentalism blind you, Lester."

"Oh, you didn't know him!" I cried. A hot resentment of fate was sweeping over me. I realized that, down at the bottom of my heart, I had never really believed in Tremaine's guilt. Even now I hardly believed in it.

Godfrey turned to Simmonds, who stood contemplating the scene with staring eyes, his lantern still open in his hand.

"It's hard luck, Simmonds," he said. "You're not going to get the glory, after all. But who could have foreseen a thing like this?"

Simmonds opened his mouth and shut it again without uttering a sound.

"You'd better notify the corner," continued Godfrey, "and, I suppose, to the strictly regular, I'll have to turn this necklace over to you for the night. Guard it well, Simmonds. It's worth a hundred thousand dollars."

"What!" stammered Simmonds. "Is it the—the—"

"Yes, it's the DeJoy necklace. You'll have to go with us to Babylon in the morning to attend the inquest. I fancy there'll be something of a sensation when we produce the necklace there—oh, Lester?" And he laughed a grim little laugh of anticipatory triumph.

Then he glanced at his watch.

"I must be going," he said. "I've got to fire this story down to the office. What a scoop it will be! Till tomorrow, gentlemen."

I heard his footsteps die out along the hall; then a sudden horror of the place seized me, a deadly loathing, and I groped my way blindly from the room.

THE END.

## Happy Derivations.

There are some very funny stories told about the derivations of words since people are likely to twist their language into strange forms. Thus, the pope is even today called by the name "pontifex," which boys in the Latin class all know is taken by him from the title of the old Roman priests. Now "pontifex" means bridge builder, and it is true that the Roman priests in the early days of the republic were in charge of bridges, but probably it should be "pontifex," meaning "maker of ceremonies." Many of you have wondered what the priest had to do with bridge building, and this little change of "nt" to "mp" makes the whole matter clear.

An astonishing derivation is that of the word "stranger," which we are told comes from the Greek word *ex*, or out of. Absurd as this seems, it is easy to understand. *Ex* means out, from or away, the same word as the Latin *ex*; hence comes extra, then comes the Latin extraneus, which means outside. The old French word, from this, *estranger*, means an outsider, but *estranger* gave us the word stranger by dropping the *s* and stranger by dropping the *e*.

After this serious example we shall not be surprised at the old joke that derived the town name "Middleton," from "Moses," by dropping the "Middle" and adding "oses."—St. Nicholas.

## Old Map of Maryland and Virginia.

At the Peabody library is an old map of Maryland and Virginia which is believed to date back to the seventeenth century. The map has a description of Maryland on one leaf of the back and a description of Virginia on the other leaf. It is bound with a few blank pages to give it stability and was evidently part of a larger work describing the American colonies, as the pages are numbered. "Baltimore town" is situated between the "Susquehanna" and "Potomac" rivers. No special mention is made of it in the description of the colony, in which "St. Mary's" figures as the chief place. In addition to the Susquehanna, with its queer spelling, the principal rivers are named as the Patowome, Patuxent, Ann Arundel, alias Severn, Choptank, Nanticoke and Pocomoke. Tobacco raising is named as the principal source of revenue in the colony, and it is stated that trade was carried on chiefly by barter and exchange. The map was published in London.—Baltimore Sun.



"I heard the swish of Godfrey's cane."

I looked at it there seemed to be



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## JAPANESE WOMAN

### FATALLY BURNED

Nakano, a Japanese woman, the wife of a wrestler named Mitsui, was fatally burned through the explosion of a kerosene lamp in Palaman last night. She was attending to, fill one lamp by the light of another and, as might have been expected, an explosion resulted, the woman being covered with the blazing oil. She rushed into the back yard and tried in vain to extinguish the flames by rolling in a small pool of water. When found by Superintendent Bath of the Palapa Mission and Harry Auld, she was in a horrible condition from the burns inflicted by the blazing oil.

A fire alarm was sent in from Box 52 and was quickly answered by the engines but the house was gutted before they reached the scene.

The woman died later in the evening at the Queen's Hospital.

## HAWAII RANCHERS

### WANT GRAZING LANDS

A petition, with ten signatures attached, has been received by Public Lands Commissioner Pratt from Hawaii, asking for the opening of two ranges in the vicinity of Kapapala, the same to be used for grazing purposes. The land asked for is located about the Volcano road on the Kona side and consists of about 25,000 acres. The land in question enjoys the distinction of being a fine pasture property completely surrounded by lava.

Commissioner Pratt has answered the petition, making a request that the petitioners file their papers as required by law. Geo. H. Williams, the sub-agent at Hilo, has been directed to render what assistance he can in the matter.

## The Green of English Lawns.

The human soul is so made that green is one of its most delectable aesthetic experiences. The color is not exciting, like red, nor stimulating, like yellow, nor exalting and inspiring, like blue; it is simply soothing, satisfying, reviving, delicious. It is the human color. If there be planets on whose surface green is a color as rare as is blue on ours, our race would speedily languish and die out there. But I speak, of course, of the perfect green, the green of English lawns. Other greens there are, cold or trivial or muddy or crude, which do but irritate or depress us, and there are blue greens and gray greens, well enough in their places, and in the caves of lecherous spiritual greens that exercise a weird enchantment. But for the argument of the night, round earth no other green is more worthy than this of England; none other touches so inwardly the heart of man. No wonder that Faust on his deathbed babbled of green fields. For my dying eyes I could desire no happier vision than the gracious levels of an English lawn steeped in the gentle sunshine of a summer afternoon.—Julian Hawthorne in Atlantic.

The Bavarian woman is perhaps the least privileged of all her European sisters. Not only is she least affected by the education and social advantages now enjoyed by women, but she is forced to do the most menial labors. Indeed, so low is her status that she is regarded more as part of her husband's "goods and chattels" than anything else.—School master.

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